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Virginia's cotton forecast up 90 percent from 2016

RICHMOND, Va. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the September Crop Production report today, showing large increases in projected yields for cotton and peanuts.

"Scattered rains in August provided enough moisture to improve yield prospects," said Herman Ellison, Virginia state statistician. "Cotton, peanut and soybean yield forecasts all increased from last month. It appears that the crop season overall will be about average, but some crops will do quite well and others will disappoint."

Virginia cotton production is projected to be 190,000 bales, up 23 percent from the August forecast and up 90 percent from 2016. Cotton yields are forecast to average 1,099 pounds per acre, up 94 pounds from last month and up 432 pounds per acre from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 83,000 acres, up 9,000 acres from the August forecast and up 11,000 acres from 2016. Cotton bolls opening is 19 percent as of Sept. 3, up slightly from last week and last year at 10 percent and 17 percent, respectively. **U.S.** cotton production was forecast at 21.8 million bales, up six percent from the August forecast and up 27 percent from 2016. Yields are forecast to average 908 pounds per acre, up 16 pounds from last month and up 41 pounds from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 11.5 million acres, up four percent from the August forecast and up 21 percent from the previous year.

Peanut farmers in **Virginia** anticipate harvesting 116 million pounds for 2017, up 49 percent from last year. Acres expected to be harvested total 27,000 acres, up 6,000 from last year. Producers expect a yield of 4,300 pounds per acre, up 600 pounds from 2016.

Corn production in **Virginia** is forecast at 46.2 million bushels, unchanged from the August forecast and down eight percent from the previous crop. Yield was estimated at 140 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month and down eight bushels from the 2016 level. Acres for harvest as grain were estimated at 330,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from 2016. Corn harvested for grain is now underway with 21 percent harvested as of Sept. 3, up from five percent harvest last week. The **U.S.** corn production is forecast at 14.2 billion bushels, up slightly from the August forecast and down six percent from last year's record production. Based on conditions as of Sept. 1, yields are expected to average 169.9 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushels from last month and down 4.7 bushels from 2016. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 83.5 million acres, unchanged from the August forecast but down four percent from 2016.

Soybean production for **Virginia** is forecast at 23 million bushels, up five percent from the August forecast and up seven percent from 2016. Yield was estimated at 39 bushels per acre, up two bushels from last month and up three bushels from a year ago. Acreage for harvest as beans was estimated at 590,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from the previous year. Soybeans dropping leaves was at five percent as of Sept. 3. **U.S.** soybean production is

forecast at 4.43 billion bushels, up one percent from the August forecast, but up three percent from 2016. Based on Sept. 1, conditions, yields are expected to average 49.9 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushels from last month, but down 2.2 bushels from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 88.7 million acres, unchanged from the August forecast, but up seven percent from 2016.

Virginia flue-cured tobacco production is forecast at 49.5 million pounds, up five percent from the August forecast and up two percent from 2016. Yield was projected at 2,250 pounds per acre, unchanged from last month and up 50 pounds from the 2016 crop. Harvested acreage was estimated at 22,000 acres, unchanged from last year's crop. By Sept. 3, 51 percent of Virginia's flue-cured tobacco crop has been harvested, up slightly from 46 percent last week and 45 percent last year. For the **flue-cured producing states** production is forecast at 473 million pounds, up four percent from the August forecast and up 10 percent from last year. Flue-cured growers plan to harvest 209,500 acres, down two percent from 2016. Yields were expected to average 2,260 pounds per acre, up 239 pounds from last year.

Production of **Virginia dark fire-cured** tobacco is forecast at 760,000 pounds, up 46 percent from the previous year. **Burley** tobacco production is forecast at 2.37 million pounds, down six percent from last year.

“Thank you to all the farmers for taking time to complete the September Agricultural Yield Survey,” Ellison said. “We appreciate their efforts during the busy growing season.”

NASS gathered data for the September Agricultural Yield Survey earlier this month. The monthly yield surveys begin in May with the focus on small grains through July and shifts to row crops beginning in August through the remainder of the growing season.

All reports are available on the NASS website:

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Calendar/reports_by_date.php.

For more information about Virginia surveys and reports, call the NASS Virginia Field Office at (800) 772-0670, or visit https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Virginia/.

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**CROP PRODUCTION SUMMARY, September 1
VIRGINIA AND UNITED STATES**

Crops	Area Planted ¹		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production	
	2016	2017	2016	2017 ²	2016	2017		2016	2017
						Aug 1 ¹	Sep 1 ²		
	VIRGINIA								
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(1,000 bushels)	(1,000 bushels)
Barley ³⁴	33	30	12	10	67.0	73.0	--	804	730
Corn ³	490	480	340	330	148.0	140.0	140.0	50,320	46,200
Soybeans ³	610	600	600	590	36.0	37.0	39.0	21,600	23,010
Wheat, Winter ³⁴	210	190	175	130	53.0	66.0	--	9,275	8,580
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)
Cotton ⁵	73	84	72	83	667	1,005	1,099	100	190
Peanuts	21	27	21	27	3,700	4,000	4,300	77,700	116,100
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	23,460	23,500	2,193	2,240	2,239	51,440	52,625
Burley	--	--	1,200	1,100	2,100	2,100	2,150	2,520	2,365
Dark Fire-Cured	--	--	260	400	2,000	2,100	1,900	520	760
Flue-Cured	--	--	22,000	22,000	2,200	2,250	2,250	48,400	49,500
	UNITED STATES								
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(1,000 bushels)	(1,000 bushels)
Barley ³⁴	3,052	2,376	2,558	1,946	77.9	72.1	--	199,282	140,220
Corn ³	94,004	90,886	86,748	83,496	174.6	169.5	169.9	15,148,038	14,184,466
Soybeans ³	83,433	89,513	82,736	88,731	52.1	49.4	49.9	4,306,671	4,431,043
Wheat, Winter ³⁴	36,137	32,839	30,222	25,760	55.3	50.0	--	1,671,532	1,287,133
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)
Cotton ⁵	10,073	12,619	9,508	11,505	867	892	908	17,170	21,758
Peanuts	1,671	1,881	1,547	1,829	3,675	4,190	4,254	5,684,610	7,781,200
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	319,660	321,400	1,967	2,215	2,248	628,720	722,605
Burley	--	--	80,000	81,500	1,747	1,984	1,970	139,750	160,525
Dark Fire-Cured	--	--	16,760	19,400	2,358	3,092	3,075	39,520	59,660
Flue-Cured	--	--	213,500	209,500	2,021	2,211	2,260	431,450	473,400

¹ Commodities with estimates not available are denoted by "--". ² Forecasted. ³ Area harvested represents grain. ⁴ Includes area planted in preceding fall. ⁵ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.